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THE
JUSTICE
AND
NECESSITY
OF A
WAR with *HOLLAND*,

In Case the
DUTCH
Do not come into
Her MAJESTY's MEASURES,
Stated and Examined.

EDINBURGH,

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in the Parliament-Cross, 1712.

that it is fit government to have, and what is fit for us to do. But let me assure you, that I consider it a very
 bad government which does not provide for the safety of its subjects, and a very
 bad government which does not provide for the recovery of its subjects.

THE
 Justice and Necessity
 O F A
WAR with HOLLAND, &c.

THE Author of this is not insensible of the many Fatal Consequences which it will be alledg'd will attend a War with the *States-General*, and therefore he is very free to acknowledge that such a War is by all Means possible to be avoided; and he lays it down as a Matter of Argument, previous to all that shall be said in this Tract, that War with *Holland* is a Thing of that Consequence that every true Protestant of this Nation should deprecate with the greatest Fervency and Zeal imaginable.

But as there are various Opinions almost on every Side, and in every Thing which comes in Debate among us at this Time, so there are others who do not stick to forward such a Thing as a *Dutch* War with all possible Eagerness as what they say is both Just and Necessary, and which by the Nature and Consequence of the Thing can be by no Means avoided.

The Author of these Sheets, finding the Contention on these Heads encreasing to a great Height among us, and

all those People who were for vindicating the Honour and Interest of their Country with an Impartial and Honest View, censured and expos'd as Men of Blood, and desirous to involve their Country in New Difficulties, bringing on the most mischievous and most bloody War that has ever yet been known, thought it might be an Acceptable Piece of Service to both Sides to examine impartially with an Unprejudiced and Unbias'd Temper the Reasons, Causes, and Justice, of the alledged Necessity which there now is, or may hereafter appear to be, in the Process of Time, and of the Circumstances of a War between the People of *Great-Britain* and the *Dutch*.

The best way to examine into these Particulars, the Author thinks, is to state the brief History of the Circumstances of the Two Nations, and how it comes to pass that these Neighbours, who, in late Times, and as it were but the other Day, being the most United and (appearing) the fastest Friends in the World, and whose Interest seemed but one and the same, are all on a sudden rendred suspected to one another, and treat one another, not only with less Confidence, but even with less Civility, than formerly, till at length the Misunderstanding is grown to such an Height, that nothing less than making War upon one another seems to be the Subject of the present Discourse; this, as it is very strange at this Time of Day, so the History of it will seem not a little surprizing to those, who not having heard the particular Cases, shall come hereafter to read them only in their Effects.

Upon the Change of the late Ministry in *Britain*, the New Persons employed, as is usual in such Cases, and to recommend their Administration to those who employed them, and to the People who raised them up, made it their Business, as it was their Duty, to enquire into the Conduct and Management of those who went before them. One of the Principal Points which they charged

upon

upon them, and which indeed they made but too evident, was, that they suffered themselves to be governed by the Dutch Councils and Influence, so as that they gave up the Honour and Interest of their Country, and of the Queen, who was esteemed as Head of the Confederacy, to the Dutch: This as it was alledged appeared in these several Particulars.

1. Their suffering the Dutch by their Commissioners to manage the Treaty at Gertruydenbergh wholly by themselves, exclusively of the British, as well as the rest of the Confederates, to the great Dishonour of the Queen, whose Ministers were not admitted to the Conferences.

2. Their entring into a Disadvantageous Treaty with the States-General, call'd, *The Treaty of Guarantee*, and of the Barrier, by which on the weak and dishonourable Pretext of Safety and Security to the Succession of Hanover to the Crown of Great Britain, great Concessions were made to the States-General in Flanders, to the Prejudice of the British Interest, especially in Matters of Trade.

3. Their admitting the Allies, especially the Dutch, to be not only negligent and remiss in furnishing their Quota's and Contingents to the carrying on the War, but voluntarily paying greater Sums by much than they were by Mutual Concert to do on the Part of Britain, and acquiescing or conniving at the Deficiencies of the Dutch.

When these Things came to be examined strictly into, in the Parliament, and the New Ministry found themselves obliged to expose them, it is not to be wondred at, if it produced some warm Resolutions in the House; and the People of Great-Britain resenting the Usage they had received, made an humble Address to Her Majesty, in the Nature of a Representation, in which some Things necessarily appear'd, which were in themselves severe Reflections upon the Dutch; this being made publick,

as in all such Cases is done, produced several Letters, Memorials, and Replies, on either Side, which at the same Time being back'd with the warm Expositions and Expostulations of the People on both Sides, brought Things on by Fatal Degrees to several unhappy Periods in all their Degrees, prompting and forwarding the Present Misunderstandings between the Two Nations.

The *Dutch*, who had before governed the Negotiations of any Kind relating to Peace, seem'd very uneasy to have that Governing Card won from them, and complained loudly of secret Negotiating with the *French* at the *British* Court, without the Knowledge of the Confederates, contrary to the VIIIth Article of the Grand Alliance, which says, ‘ That none of the Confederates shall treat with the Enemy concerning a Peace, without the Common Consent of all the rest. ’

The *British* Ministry return'd, that they hadnot entered into any such Negotiations as were contrary to that Treaty, there being no Provision made, or intended to be made, to prevent any Ally from receiving Proposals of Peace to communicate to the Allies, and that her Majesty had done no more; They recriminated that the States had done the like formerly, and had entertained a Minister of *France* several Moneths in *Holland*, previous to the Treaty at the *Hague*, and had not all that while made it known to the *British*, or any other of the Confederates: From these Debates came on the Matters of Deficiency abovesaid, which was not managed on both Sides without many Resentments, and much Reflection on the Persons and Parties concerned; all which Disputes unhappily contributed to the lessening the mutual Confidence which had always been between the two Nations before this Time.

But these, however they were the Foundation on which the first Misunderstandings between them began were inconsiderable, when compar'd to the Debates which in

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In the Course of the Treaty at *Utrecht* brought Matters to the Head in which we see them at this Time.

The Queen had with great Application to all the Confederats brought Matters to such a Head as to enter upon a formal general Treaty of Peace, nominating the Town of *Utrecht* for the Meeting of the Plenipotentiaries of every Party; to the End that in an open and fair Treaty, which had never yet been obtained, all Parties might treat for themselves, and, if possible, an End might be put to the Miseries of *Europe*: but this Method putting the Treaty upon a new Foot, and as it were taking the Management of the Peace out of the Hands of the *Dutch*, was not only exclaimed against by the Party formerly concerned here, and who (as said is) had before given all into the *Dutch* Management; but even the *Dutch* themselves, tho' at first in more respectful Terms, opposed it with all their Skill; however, not being able to prevent a Treaty, they seemingly came into the Queens Measures for a Treaty: It was soon apparent they resolved from the Beginning to render it ineffectual, so that they might, tho' they could not prevent a Treaty, be certain to prevent a Peace, which was the End of a Treaty: The Emperor, who stood out longest, when he saw into the Secret, tho' he had profest himself *UNALTERABLY* resolved not to send his Ministers to *Utrecht*, yet came afterwards (tho' with the same Designs) into the Measures, and sent his Plenipotentiaries to the Place of Congress; it is with some Régret that I say, at the first Appearance of the Ministers of the Allies at the Place of Treaty there appeared a full Concert of Measures between them and a Party here at *London*, and this Party were not backward to boast that it was so, And that they would effectually disappoint the Ministry in the Hopes they ad entertained of bringing the *Dutch* into their Measures: The *Dutch*, who were so backward to enter in-

to a Confidence with Her Majesty for the Peace of Europe, made no Scruple to enter into the same Confidence with a Party of her Subjects whom they knew to have fallen into her Majesties Displeasure ; and they, who had assumed the whole Direction of former Negotiations, were willing to take so much of their Measures in this, from that Party, as qualified them in every Step they took to thwart and oppose all Her Majesties Measures at the Treaty.

Altho' this was very evident by several exact Accounts which the Ministry had of their most Secret Negotiations, yet it was easy also to see into it by the several Parts of those Affairs, which in the Prosecution of the Treaty made it most undeniably ; and nothing made it more plain than One Circumstance, in which the Party seemed to discover more Warmth than Prudence as to their own Affairs, (viz.) that their Emissaries had every Thing they purposed to do, and all the Measures that were resolved to be pursued Abroad made Publick at Home, by Way of News and Common Discourse, long before it was moved Abroad, by which it was easie to know where the Measures of every Thing were concerted, and from whence they came. This, altho' it was not very easie to be discerned in England, was yet visible to the meanest Judgment Abroad; and it was really surprizing at Utrecht, when at the several Conferences of the Ministers of the Allies, the respective Ministers found nothing proposed by certain particular Managers, but what they had first read in the ordinary Prints from London, having been published there as News from Utrecht : This was a Secret that easily discovered itself, and required no other Information ; it was from that Time no wonder to find the Imperial and Dutch Plenipotentiaries applied themselves to oppose every Expedient that could be proposed, and that the whole Bent of their Proceedings were found not to tend to the carrying on,

but to the breaking off, the Treaty: True it is, that the Politick Hollanders, not willing to affront Her Majesty, to whom they had made such large Professions of their Desire of Peace, did not so directly oppose the Propositions of a General Peace, as the Ministers of the Emperor, but rather applied themselves to find out Ways for Delay, for evading the Entrance into General Conferences for Peace, and for spinning out the Treaty in Length, that so the Season for Action, advancing apace, the Armies might be in the Field, and they might bring the War upon the Stage, from which they pretended, as has long before been the Pretence, to expect great Things in One Campaign more. This could not be carried on so subtilly, but that it was easily discovered by Her Majesties Ministers, who in several private Conferences were very plain in telling the Ministers of the States-General, not only how unfriendly such a Treatment of Her Majesty appeared to be, but what the Consequences of it would be. This, tho' done with all the Civility and Courtesy that consisted with the Duty of faithful Ministers, and with the necessary Plainness which such Things required, was nevertheless represented in all the virulent Terms imaginable in *England*, and the Printed Libels spread about by the Faction in *England*, related, that the Earl of Strafford, Her Majesties Plenipotentiary, had Bullied the *Dutch*, &c. and since that, it was Printed by a known Author of that Party, that the *Dutch* had been threatned; *Vide* the *Flying-Post*, July 3. where are the following Words. " That the Deputies of the States had been told, that if they did not comply with a Cessation of Arms in 48 Hours, Orders would be given to the Forces of a certain Potentate (*Britain*) to join with the *French*.

These Things, however spread about here to enflame the People, were yet useful, as is said above, to discover how far the *Dutch* had embark'd themselves in a close

Concert of Measures with the Parties in *England*; it was not difficult to conclude from thence, what Her Majesty had to expect from Allies, who might with more Justice be called the Confederates of the late Ministry, than Her Majesty's Confederates; and who instead of acting with Openness and Confidence with Her Majesty, in such Measures as might tend to the bringing a safe and honourable Peace to a speedy Conclusion, apparently Counteracted all the Steps Her Majesty was pleased to take for that happy Purpose; and made it appear, that the whole Design was that this Treaty should be rendered Abortive. This had been discoursed of as a suspected Part only for some Time; and the frequent Assurances given by the *Dutch* Ministers, of their Desire to make Peace, serv'd to cover over the Designs above-said from the Common Observation, till the first Ceremonies of the Congress were at an End. But when the Affair of the Peace came to be more nearly debated, and the Specifick Demands on both Sides were given in, then they thought fit to act a little more openly, and to throw off the Mask at last from some part of their Faces; they insist upon an Answer in Writing from the *French*; and upon their declining it, they vote to enter into no more Conferences till such an Answer was given in. This put a Full and Formal Stop to the whole Meeting, and obliged Her Majesty to consider what was next to be done; it being apparent, that if Her Majesty intended to bring the Peace to any Head, She must enter into new Measures for it, and that with Speed, the War being else very likely to go on with more Fury than ever, and the Time for opening the Campaign being so near. The *French* Plenipotentiaries protest themselves ready to enter upon immediate Conferences, as the Thing principally intended; that they were ready to give every Ally Satisfaction upon their particular Demands; that the giving in Answers in Writing was perfectly needless,

needless, while they were there with Plenipotentiary Powers, ready to treat of every Article by itself; that the Papers which had been already given in had been made Use of, to rather animate the People in their several Nations to carry on the War, than according to the true Intent of their Meeting, to make them the Means of a Treaty; That false and injurious Constructions having been made of what had been already offered, and those unjust Interpretations of their Masters sincere Intentions to Peace, having been allowed to be Printed and dispers'd in the several Confederate Countries, they conceiv'd the same to be a dishonourable Use of those written Proposals; that the Proceeding by Conference, was the quickest Way to come to a Conclusion; and if the same sincere Desire of Peace appeared in the Confederates, as their Master had profest, they would shew it, by rather entring upon Conferences which might bring the Peace to a speedy and happy Issue, than by infesting upon Answers in Writing, which was certain to spin the Affair out in Length: That by these Delays the Campaign might begin, and the Accidents of War might make void in one Day, all that the Plenipotentiaries had been doing in many Weeks. But if there was a sincere Desire of Peace in the Allies, as they had pretended, they (the *French*) were ready to show the same, by putting the Treaty into such a Posture as might be most likely to bring it to a happy Conclusion.

All these Representations, however approved by Her Majesty, and by such of the Allies, as really had the Peace in their View, were yet rejected by the *Imperial* and *Dutch* Ministers, and the Conferences being thereby broken off, it appeared that Her Majesty must enter upon new Measures, and take the Matter into Her own Hands, or that *Britain* must be driven into the War by the Force of these Methods, whether for the Publick Good or not, and whether Her Majesty was obliged so to do by Her Treas-

Treaties and Alliances, or not. This being the State of the Case, it was but reasonable to hear how far the King of *France* would reasonably and *Bona Fide*, go, towards a just and reasonable Satisfaction to Her Majesty, and Her Allies, that it might be known whether Her Majesty, or Her Allies, were in the Right: It was alledged, that if the King of *France* did really offer to give such Satisfaction, as ought to be accepted of, the War could not be justly carried on; for that no Christian Prince could justify the pursuing the War with Blood and Waste, for Conditions which might be obtained without it. Upon this Foundation, Her Majesty having first made Her outmost Efforts to bring the said Negotiation to be General, as said is, but in vain, entered into an Enquiry with the *French* Court; how far a Peace might be had, if the Allies thought fit to accept of it: In Pursuance of this Method, Her Majesty found the *French* Court ready to make great Advances to all the Confederates, in order to a Peace, and ready to give such Security for the Performance, as might convince the Confederates of his Sincerity, ready to give such large Parts of the *Spanish* Monarchy to the Emperor as might in Reason satisfie him for his Pretensions, and so to separate the rest from the Interest of *France*; as that the Confederates might be satisfied there was no Design ever to unite them with *France*. That as to Her own Subjects, Her Majesty had such Concessions from *France*, as that She had nothing more to desire; and that the Important Fortress of *Dunkirk* should be immediately put into Her Hands for the Security of the Performance. These Things being advanced, Her Majesty could no longer doubt, but they were sufficient Ground for all the Confederates to hope for a Peace from them, Her Majesty at the same Time being willing to concern Herself to obtain farther Satisfaction for any of the Allies who might think themselves not fully answer'd.

Now

Now albeit that Her Majesty did not think fit absolutely to make a Peace with the King of *France* upon this Foot, as, the Behaviour of the Confederates considered, she had just Ground to do ; yet as a Christian Prince, regardful of the just Pretence on which a War ought to be carried on, and regardful of the Effusion of Blood, and of the Calamities of *Europe*, as well as of the Distresses and Losses of her own Innocent Subjects ; Her Majesty finds that she cannot in Conscience push on a War any longer, such reasonable Satisfaction being fairly offered by the Enemy, as whereon a Safe and Honourable Peace may be founded, no War being to be lawfully made among Christians, where reasonable Satisfaction may be peaceably obtain'd.

On this Foot the Affairs of *Europe* stood when the Campaign began ; the Opposers of the Peace had this one Dependance, which they thought could not fail them, (*viz.*) The *English* Troops having join'd the Army and the Operations of War necessarily coming on, they thought they should put an immediat Stop to any farther Discourses of Peace by a vigorous Attack of the *French* Troops ; and this they found so absolutely necessary, that the *Imperial* General pretending Advantages, proposed to attack the Enemy in their Intrenchments, altho' posted to all imaginable Advantage. When Her Majesty finding Herself thus treated, and that all Her Endeavours to end this War, without the further Effusion of Blood were in vain, and remembiring the late Bloody Battle of *Blaregnies*, where above 35000 Men on both Sides were sacrificed to the meer Name of a Victory, without any Advantage to the Common Cause, and finding that the Proposal of fighting was rather a Contrivance to force Her Majesty into the War, than any real Opportunity of fighting to Advantage ; upon these Considerations Her Majesty could do no less than to send express Order to Her General not to proceed on such

such unjust a Foundation A great Noise has been made of the Advantages which we had at that Time to engage the *French*; but a Noble Lord, who was an undoubted Judge of the Case, having had long Experience in the Army, and knew very well the Ground, answered that Part so well in the House of Lords, that the Letter sent by the States-General on that Occasion received some Disreputation for that Reason; and the many times formerly, when the States-General have without any Pretence of a Treaty on Foot, refused to consent to let their Troops fight, when much greater Opportunities of Advantage presented, and of which many Instances were given, which could not be denied, was more than an Answer to that Part.

But Her Majesty insisted upon the more Christian Part of the Argument, viz. That being entered upon a Treaty of Peace with *France*, And the *French* King having made such Offers as Her Majesty thought were reasonable to be accepted, Her Majesty could not in Conscience consent to a Battle, the Consequence of which must needs be the Loss of many Thousands of the Best and Bravest Men in both Armies, and whose Blood must be spilt without any just Ground; that this was an impious Thing in itself, and unbecoming any Christian Prince, to yield to a Battle, when a reasonable Proposal was made by *France* for settling the Peace of *Europe*, and such Security as the Possession of *Dunkirk* given for the Performance. Here then Her Majesty thought fit to stop the Proceedings of War; and finding that the Ends and Reasons of the Grand-Alliance were effectually answer'd in the Proposals of Peace, Her Majesty caus'd them to be laid before the States-General, with this Addition, that Her Majesty thought it was reasonable to publish a Cessation of Arms, that these Proposals might be immediatly treated upon, in order to a General Peace,

This

This History leads us on directly to the Particular Proceedings of our Confederates upon the said Motion; how they behaved, and in what Manner Her Majesty has been treated by them; in the Consequences whereof it will appear at whose Door the Mischiefs and fatal Events which may follow these Things must lye. I shall not however, in the Process of this Observation, insist upon the little Insolencies and Affronts offered to her Majesty, Her Ministers, Her Generals and Souldiers; the Arguments I shall find to make Use of will have a better Foundation than scurrilous Answers, printing of Letters, Abuses, Pictures, &c. as was formerly alledged, though these have not been wanting on the Side of our good Friends and Allies, But I shall seek no Advantages of that Kind in this Discourse.

The first Stop the Allies took, after her Majesties General had notified to Prince *Eugene* his Orders for a Cessation of Arms, and for making a Detachment to take Possession of *Dunkirk*, was this, to make a Movement with the Right of his Army, by which Disposition it seem'd as if some Affront should have been offered to his Grace, if he had thought fit to have caused the said Detachment to march. This caused the Duke of *Ormond* to put off making the Detachment for some Days, and to send an Express to *London*; upon which it was thought fit to take other Measures, and not to weaken the Body of Troops his Grace had with him, but to send Troops from *England* to take Possession of *Dunkirk* by Sea, which was accordingly done. This Stop gave Rise to that Report which was put into our Prints, that the *French* had hesitated, and refused to put the Town of *Dunkirk* into our Hands, unless we could bring off all our Auxiliary Troops, &c. of which not a Word was true. The next Step the *Dutch* took in this Matter, was to send away Expresses to all the Princes who had lent Troops to the Queen of *Great-Britain*, to obtain

obtain Orders to the Generals who commanded those Troops not to obey the Orders of the British General, but to follow Prince *Eugene*; so that by this Means, the Troops which eat the Queen's Bread, refused to obey the Orders of Her Majestie's Generals. This was Subject of great Triumph here in *England*, where they openly declared that the Confederates would carry on the War without us, even before the States-General had come to any Resolution upon this Head, or indeed before the States of the Seperate Provinces had met together about it; which was another Demonstration that the Councils abroad received great Influence from, and acted in Concert with the Faction here, and carried on the Matters there according to the Measures taken here. Those who consider as well the Fact of this, as the Consequences of it, cannot but think Her Majesty had great Reason to think herself no longer bound by the former Engagements to those People, who thought fit, notwithstanding these Engagements, to act so unbecoming their Respect to Her Majesty, as to transact their Measures with the Enemies of Her Government. Upon these Things being thus managed, Her Majesty found Her General forsaken by the Auxiliary Troops, tho' entertain'd in Her Pay, and tho' under Agreements for a certain Time. It is not easy to express how insolent a certain Party of Men were grown here upon the first Notice of these Troops abandoning the Queens Army, and how they spread abroad Reports of the Duke of *Ormond* having been threatened by the Imperial Generals, and by the Generals of the auxiliary Troops; how they first talked of confining the Duke himself, and the second, of stopping him for their Arrears; and how the Publick Prints were full of the daily Affronts given our General, and of a Martial Answer to be given to the Earle of *Stafford*, if he offered to expostulate with them upon the Point of refusing to join.

Not

Not one Word of all which had any Truth in it, but the said Generals parted with all the Civilities possible, and all the Demonstrations of mutual Courtesie in the World.

Upon these Measures the *Dutch* having resolved to carry on a separate War, it comes next to be considered what the Queen of *Great-Britain* will think fit to do; and whereas the Party think fit here to boast, that the War will go on as well without us; we must in the next Place consider, whether it consists with the Safety of Her Majesties Kingdoms to suffer the War to proceed in the Manner as has been said, especially if the Confederates think themselves capable of pushing on a War for the Recovery of *Spain*, as is now pretended they will do. This Question relates to several Circumstances of present Affairs, as they relate to things Abroad, and Things at Home. As to Things Abroad, the Question must be decided by the stating the so much debated Article, the Ballance of Power in *Europe*; and the Answer will be brief, let it fall on which Side it will. The general Safety has all along been acknowledged to consist in keeping a due Pace between the Powers and Princes on every Side, whose Interest may be supposed to clash with one another; if any of these, whether separately or conjunctively, appear to push at a Superiority of Power of the rest of the Princes of *Europe*, it becomes absolutely necessary to all the rest to reduce that particular or joint Power to a due Ballance, so as not to leave it in his or their Power, to acquire that Strength he or they aim at, and to pull down that Power if it be attained to. This alone hath hitherto been the Foundation of the War against the *French* Nation, who aiming to engross the Dominions of *Spain* into the Hands of the House of *Bourbon*, drew down in a just Consequence upon them all the united Powers of *Europe*, in order to prevent the Conjunction of such a Power as would be there-

by made too great for the rest, and put *France* into a Posture of executing the ambitious Projects which had before rendred them a Terror to their Neighbours. We do not find any one disputing against the Justice of this War; nor is there any Design in any of the present Discourse to lessen the Aversions there have been among us to *French* Greatness; Her Majesty has had a just Regard to what has been doing on that Head, and has given every Part of it its due Weight, in every Step she has taken in her late Negotiation with *France*, and has made (so wise Men think) suitable Provisions, and effectual for the preventing the growth of that Power, and for the preserving an Eternal Separation between the several Interests of *France* and *Spain*; Her Majesty has, as far as can be expected, and much more than (their Behaviour considered) they had Reason to look for, taken Care of the Interests of some of Her Allied Neighbours, and given them such Barriers, Fortresses, and Countries, as in the Judgment of all former Ages were reckoned more than a sufficient Security to them against all the Forces of *Europe*; and Her Majesty, on Her Part, cannot but think them sufficient.

But these Allies pushing on beyond these just Bounds, not content with those Securities and Barriers, aiming thereby at that same unequal Extent of Power which has been so universally thought dangerous in the *French*, what Effect must this be attended with, but the same that the exorbitant Power of *France* was attended with, viz. the Jealousie and Uneasiness of all the rest of *Europe*? This is a brief Explanation of what has been so much Canvas'd in our late Pamphlet Debates about the Balance of Power: Come we next to enquire what is to be understood by another common Expression, which it should seem some People have forgot the Signification of, viz. Holding the Ballance of *Europe*. If any particular Prince or Potentate in *Europe* and at this Time be said to

to hold the Ballance of *Europe*, it is the Queen of *Great-Britain*; the King of *France* having positively made Offers to Her Majesty, both of General and Particular Peace, and put the strongest Fortress in the World into Her Majesties Hands as a Security of his Sincerity, and for the Performance of his Promises in those Affairs. Her Majesty having found the Concessions made by *France* capable of being formed into a Safe and Honourable Peace for all *Europe*, has thought fit to invite them all to hearken to it, and to treat together, in Order to conclude such a general Peace, which healing Christian Endeavours of the Queen have been rejected with more Indecency, and with more Warmth, in some Princes, than the Queen had Reason to expect; and particularly with a Temper so unusual between Confederates, as has not been a little surprizing, as well to Her Majesty Herself, as to all Her People, who think the Allies in General, especially that Crown who hath acted in this extraordinary Manner, under too many Obligations to Her Majesty to have made such a Return. But Her Majesty laying aside all Resentment at these Things, and not suffering Herself to be moved by any Thing which might be disobliging in Her Allies, having not slackened Her Endeavours for the Publick Peace of *Europe*, but finding Herself disappointed in Her Hopes of effecting it by this Treaty, thought it full Time to cast Her Eye to Her own People, and see if it might be possible to give them that Ease from the Calamities of a long War, which the rest of Her Allies have not thought fit accept of; and accordingly having receiv'd full Satisfaction in all Her Demands to the infinite Advantage of Her own Subjects, the Honour of Her Kingdoms, and the great Extent of their Trade, Her Majesty thinks it reasonable to accept of the Conditions, and has received the Pledge of these Conditions, in the putting *Dunkirk* into Her Hands as a Security. Thus Her Majesty being

(20)
out of the War, and being put into a Posture to give Peace to Europe, may be properly said to hold the Ballance of Europe in Her own Hands.

Having made this plain, it follows to enquire what the Duty and Interest of that Prince is in whose Hand the Ballance of Power is placed, and this without making any Descant upon the Word, is in brief, that the said Power is obliged thereby, and put in a Posture of Ability, to prevent and restrain all Attempts, made either on one Side or other, to acquire exorbitant Strength to enlarge or extend Dominion and Possession to such a Degree, as to make that Power unequal to the rest of Europe; while the Emperor and Dutch Confederates push on the War against France without Her Majesties Alliance, they put themselves on this Account under Her Majesties Observation, in order to take Care that their Design have no visible Tendency to the breaking in upon this Scale of Power; but if they go beyond the Bounds of the just Equalities above, it is Her Majesties Part, and must be the general Interest of Britain, as well as of all Europe, to restrain them. It is without Dispute, that the aiming at the Spanish Monarchy, in order to join that vast Dominion in the same Person, who shall at the same Time be Emperor of Germany, can no more be consistent with the Ballance of Equality above, than the Conjunction thereof to France, of which we have given Opinion before. But as his Imperial Majesty claims this, and pretends to push on the War with such a View, it seems natural, that whoever holds the Ballance of Power in Europe must declare against permitting such a Conquest to be made, or such a Conjunction at any Time coming to be brought to pass; whether this Maxim, for such it is, may have any bad Consequences upon the present Peace of this Nation, or no, is not for us to determine, but lies rather in the Breasts of the Dutch and Imperialists to resolve, and will go this Way, or that, as they take their

their Measures in the Prosecution of the present War, which they are pretending to carry on. But there remains no room to doubt, but if the *Emperor* and the *Dutch* push their Designs to a Probability of bringing such a Thing to pass, as that pushing is a Step to the obtaining the aforesaid exorbitant Power, it must engage that Power, let it be who it will that then holds the Ballance to act against them: It is not then the Queen's Majesty who makes a War with the *Dutch*, but it is the *Dutch* making War with her; like Two Men Fighting, and One of them falling upon the peaceable By-stander, who attempts to part them; no Question can be made, but that in the Case above; Her Majesty would think Herself obliged to part the Fray, and hold the Hands of the Invader; and if the Party thought themselves grieved in this, and fell upon the Queen, the War would be inevitable; but all the World, as well as he that made it, would acquit Her Majesty, who would thereby have a just Claim to the Blessing of the Peace-maker, and be doubly provoked by the ill Usage of those who had opposed that Blessed Undertaking.

Supposing then Things to be come by the Steps aforesaid to the Height we have spoken of, and suppose her Majesty, holding the Hands of the present Powers in their Pursuit of that exorbitant Demand of the Monarchy of *Spain* for the *Emperor*; suppose her Majesty finds it absolutely needful to put a Stop to the said unjust Designs, and that in opposing those Restraints the said Persons and Powers, be they the *Dutch*, or any else, fall upon Her Majesties Subjects or Armies, here will the Justice and Necessity of a War with *Holland* appear according to the Title I place to this Work; for us to talk of the Queen sitting still, and look on, when the War shall have this Effect, is to hold the Ballance, and not to hold the Ballance at the same Time; or rather this would be to give up the Ballance, and suffer it

to be broken by that same Power and Ambition which it is bound to restrain. It would be telling Her Majesty that she is not to be trusted with the *Ballance of Europe*, and knows not how to hold it, or keep it even. It is no more a *Ballance* than it is exerted to hold the Hands of all those who attempt to break in upon the Equalities which constitute it, and than it ceases to give a Cheque to the Invaders of *Europe*; the Word *Ballance* implies keeping the publick Peace, keeping the World quiet, therefore is Justice Emblematically represented by a Woman holding the Beam of a Scale, who lifting both Sides up with a steady and even Hand, keeps them even, and brings them to a Poize, that Right may be duly Administred by and to both Parties. Thus the Queen poizing the Scale of Power, is that not more Weight may be put into one Side than the other; but from this Emblem is to be observed, that Justice is also armed with a Sword, as well as furnished with a Beam; implying, that if in weighing between two, either Side, by Fraud, or Force offer to violate the just Equality which all Things ought to observe, She has Power as well to prevent the Mischief from being done, as to punish it when done, by Way of Example to deter others. These Emblems set forth so exactly the Nature and Obligation of a Sovereign, or Power, holding the Ballance of Nations that we need no further Enquire for a Reason why the Measures, we are now speaking of, should be taken; can there be any longer a Doubt but that Prince, in whose Hands the Ballance of *Europe* is or shall be placed, ought to draw his Sword in Defence of that Balance, against that Party or Nation, without Distinction who shall interrupt the Peace and the Tranquillity which that Balance is obliged to protect and preserve? It is no longer a Ballance than it preserves an Equality; to suffer any one of the Powers within its Reach to engross more Power than is its due Proportion, is to cease

to

to be the Ballance any longer ; at least it destroys the Ballance, and takes the Beam and Scales out of that Hand who was supposed to hold it before. To bring this to the Case in Hand, the Affair before us is very plain ; Her Majesty by making proposals of Peace for all the Parties, or rather by receiving Proposals of Peace from one Side, and handing them to the other, is made Arbitrator of the Justice and Reasonableness of those Proposals ; she is thereby made Arbitrator, tho' not entirely Mediator ; the Difference between an Arbitrator and a Mediator is manifest, and may be spoken to by itself : As Her Majesty has drawn out of the War Herself, being fully satisfied of the Justice and Reasonableness of the Conditions, on which a Peace is offered to be made ; by her Majesties being so drawn out, we say, Britain is become in many Respects a Neuter in the War, tho' not entirely so, till the Peace is absolutely concluded.

As a Neuter, tho' the Parties should not mutually agree that the Decision of the Quarrel be referred to the Arbitration of the Queen, yet every Neuter is so far concerned in the Quarrel, as to provide that neither Party be put, by their Successes against the other, into such a Posture as to be able to oblige that Neuter to come into the War to its Disadvantage. The Case of the King of *Prussia* is stated, something of Kin to this ; he is placed, as may be said, in the Middle between the Kings of *Sweden* and *Poland*, or *Sweden* and *Muscovy* ; there is no doubt but had the King of *Prussia* Power proportioned to the Case, he would hold the Scale between those Princes, and it is to be feared still that if he does not, he may at last fall a Prey to the Conqueror. But on the other Hand, would the *Prussian* Monarch exert himself and appear with 30 or 40 Thousand Men in the Field, and say, I cannot permit this War to go on in this Manner, if you will come to an Accommodation of the Differences I will acquiesce, but if not I shall and will

will take Part with the other, would not this Method immediatly restore the Peace of the *North*, and bles *Germany* with that Tranquillity which she has never yet enjoyed since the *Polish Election*. What but this is it we all blame the King of *Sweden* for, when with 7000 Men he lay still in *Saxony*, and neglected to heal the Wounds of *Europe*? Did we not all say he neglected the greatest Opportunity that ever could happen, or that ever Prince had to make himself Glorious, and to restore the Tranquillity of this Part of the World! In like Manner Her Majesty has now an Opportunity to restore *Europe* to a General Peace; and how must it be? Why, how must it have been done by the King of *Sweden*? And how did we all expect it to be done by him at that Time? But by examining the Pretensions and Demands on every Side, and stating a happy Proportion, to give Satisfaction to every one in their Requests, and then joining the Power of the Sword to protect the Scale, and keep the Ballance even; had the King of *Sweden* done thus, and said to either Side, that it was reasonable they should submit to such and such Conditions, and that if they refused, he would find himself obliged to join the Side that did accept them, to enforce and oblige the other to assent; this would soon have put an End to the Difference, and *Europe* had long ago been in Peace; and this had been the best Step the King of *Sweden* could have taken to have secured his own Peace too, which now he has lost, and which all the Powers of *Europe* are to much embroil'd, and too little obliged to him to concern them selves for. Nor is there any of the Confederates but who blame the King of *Sweden* for omitting so good an Occasion of universal Good to *Europe*. Her Majesty of *Great-Britain* is exactly in the Case of these two Princes, and the Circumstances may end so also: She is in the Case of the King of *Prussia*, for that if she remains entirely Neuter, it may soon fall out that which Side soever

Should conquer may oppress Her, and may either bring Her into the War, as it were by Force, to Her Disadvantage, or may fall upon Her singly at last, to Her Ruin ; the *Prussian*, by refusing either Side to join with them, has given as well the *Swede*, as the *Muscovite*, sufficient Pretence of Resentment ; and if either of these two conquer, so as to reduce the other entirely, the Conqueror will certainly resent that Indifference to the Loss of the King of *Prussia*, if not to his Ruin. Likewise Her Majesty may be said to have disengaged the Confederates very much ; nay, some of them have not been backward to say so ; and their Friends here have been very far from mincing the Matter, as we call it, in their Behalf, and say, that if they can reduce *France* without us, they will take a Time to let us see they can resent the Treatment they have met with from the *British* Court. Now albeit there seems no great need to apprehend the Success of the Confederates, especially if the Account of the late Blow given them by the Marshal *de Villars* be true in all its Parts, as we see very little Cause to doubt, yet the Observation will still hold good, that this is a good Reason why Her Majesty of Great-Britain should so hold the Reins or Ballance of Europe's Power in her own Hand, as to prevent those little remote Threatnings taking Place upon her, and that if such Success should favour their Arms against *France*, they may not become formidable to us, as their Party-Friends pretend to threaten. This will be allowed by all that understand any Thing of the Justice, as well as Policy of Nations to be just ; and a Method to be followed by all wise States and Princes, always to support the Weak against the Strong, where the Party overcoming may be in a Condition to disturb the Peace of their Neighbours. If then the boasted Success of the Confederates against *France* should happen, no sensible Man will contend, that Her Majesty, in whose Hand the

Scale of *Europe* is now held, has not a Necessity upon Her to maintain the Equality, and to draw the Sword of War and Justice against that Power, let it be who it will, which shall push their Success so far, as to endanger the Publick Tranquillity of *Europe*; if this be the *Dutch*, or the *Emperor*, or whoever else shall be the Power, it matters not, as to the Case before us, it must be done with respect to the General Safety; if it were the *French* it would be the same Thing; this justifies Her Majesty, that as Her known Measures are visibly Calculated for preserving the General Peace, and to bring all Parties to State their Pretensions at a General Treaty, in order to have the Security of every Side measured by Justice and Right, and the Publick Good, so whoever opposes that Publick Right, and claims more than is consistent with the Safety and Peace of the whole, is and ought to be esteemed a Publick Enemy; and the Queen is obliged by the Nature of the Thing, and by Justice both to Herself, and to all the rest of *Europe*, to declare against such a Proceeding, and to declare, that in such Case Her Majesty will think such Proceeding to be designed as a Declaration of War against Her, and that she shall proceed accordingly. Nor is it sufficient to say this should be done when such Success, and when such Proceedings of any such Ally shall appear. But as Dangers are always to be prevented in their Appearance, not in their Consequences, it is the greatest Piece of Justice in the World for Her Majesty to do this beforehand, and to declare to the Allies in Time, that if they propose to themselves to act in such and such a Manner, and to push at such and such Things, (*viz.*) at the setting up the *Emperor* on the *Spanish* Throne, and the reducing *France* beyond the Treaty of the *Pyrenees*, that these Things being inconsistent with the Peace of *Europe*, and with the Ballance of Power which is now put into Her Majesties Hands for the general Good, Her Majesty can by no means

means permit any such Thing ; this is so fair a Declaration, that after this any Proceeding contrary to it is, and ought to be esteemed by all the World, not the Queen of Great Britain's making War upon the Dutch, but the Dutch War upon Her.

Nor in such a Case can the Allies pretend that Her Britannick Majesty wrongs them in the least, because in all such Cases it has been the Practice of Nations, and even of the Confederates themselves, to exert the Power of Neutral Nations to prevent such Designs as tend to break in upon the Publick Peace of Europe, albeit the Pretensions of those People or Princes have been unquestionably just ; History is full of Instances of this Nature, but nothing can confirm it more than the Practice of the States-General themselves, in which they have taken upon them with the utmost Partiality to interpose in the Quarrel of their Neighbours, and to hold the Hands of this or that Prince, when Occasion has offered to do himself justice on his Enemies, and at the same Time to lay him open to the Invasion of that other Power whom they protected before ; an Eminent Example of this Kind of Dutch Justice we have in the Affair of the Swedes, who when their Army in Pomerania was whole, and unbroken, and their Prince Triumphant against the Polo and the Muscovite, a neutral Army, as it was called, was set on Foot by the Dutch, and other Princes brought into it at their Motion and Sollicitation, under Pretence of preserving the Peace of the Empire; by which Army they pretended to prevent the Swedish Forces entring into Saxony or Poland, to do themselves Right against King Augustus, altho' that King Augustus had openly renounced the Sacred Treaty of Alt-Ranstat, of which the States-General themselves were the insignificant Guarantees ; thus for the pretended preserving the Peace of Germany, they, the States-General, thought themselves obliged, or at least, that they had a Right to stop

the King of Sweden from pursuing his just Quarrel upon the Muscovites and Poles, and by Force to hold his Hands, when he was in Condition to do himself Justice. On the other Hand, the King of Sweden being by this Means disabled; and having other Misfortunes upon him, to weaken him, the same States-General, with a Partiality peculiar to themselves, withdrew, and broke up the said Neutral Army, and left the Swedish Provinces in Pomerania open, to be invaded by the United Forces of Denmark, Saxony, Poland, and Muscovy, without in the least concerning themselves to preserve the Peace of Germany, in a Case of Manifest Oppression ; not to mention here the Impolitick step in this, of letting the Barbarians (*Muscovites*) into the Heart of the Empire : If this Conduct may be allowed in the Dutch, and the preserving the Peace of the North, might be allowed to be a Necessity sufficient to put them upon treating the King of Sweden with such manifest Partiality, how much more just is it in Her Majesty, where the immediate Peace of Her own Dominions will be in manifest Hazard, and where all Europe will be evidently exposed to Ruin and Desolation ? How much more just, I say, is it in Her Britannick Majesty to resolve to maintain the Balance of Europe, by opposing by Arms, or otherwise, all such Powers and Potentates as may on this Occasion oppose themselves, and break in upon the just Measures, taken for the Preservation of the General Peace.

There is little Need to say more on this Head to prove the Justice of a War with whosoever shall break in upon the Queen's Measures, as Her Majesty is now Arbitress of the Peace of Europe, and holding the Ballance of Power, be it the Dutch, or any else. But we have another Circumstance attending, which removes this Case a Step higher, and from its being just, brings it to be absolutely necessary, and this is taken from our Divisions at Home, where the Party who put themselves in

in a direct Opposition to the Queen's Measures, value themselves upon having so much Influence upon People Abroad, as to be able upon the View of their Successes against the *French*, to threaten the Queen, and Her Ministers of State, with forcing them to new Measures, and new Alterations at Home. These, by their continued Disturbances, and factious Opposition to whatever Her Majesty attempts, or Her Ministers contrive for the Publick Good, make themselves the just Mark of Observation to all those who have any Regard to the Good of this Nation, or to the Honour of their Sovereign; It is but a necessary Consequence of their restless Endeavours to disturb the Common Peace, that the Queen should look well to every Part, and especially where they openly and avowedly correspond; it is not for us to say, that these People are able by their Interest to Byass the States-General, or to Byass the Emperor, or to bear any Weight in any of the Councils Abroad. But while they boast of it themselves, and all Intelligences agree, that the said People Abroad are weak enough to value themselves upon such a Correspondence, and to stoop to Foment Faction and Division among Her Majesties Subjects, hoping some time or other to make good their Cause, and carry on their Designs by the Disorder of Her Majesties Affairs; this, it must be acknowledged, may drivethe British Court to take Measures, which otherwise they would not do, and will to all the World justify the Necessity of Her Majesty taking from Her factious Subjects all Hopes of Carrying on their Plots against Her Government, by the Help and Assistance of any Foreign Confederacy, be they *Dutch*, *Imperial*, or of any Kind whatsoever.

This Party, which have thus set themselves to oppose all Her Majesties Measures, are known to do it with this Prospect, as it particularly resp. Ets the Affairs Abroad: They know that Her Majesty aims at the general Tranquillity of Europe, and that she has commanded all Her Ministers of State

State to use their utmost Efforts to bring this War to a Conclusion, being sensible that in former Times a good and Advantageous Peace might have been obtain'd, if the Ministry at that Time had not fallen in with the Measures of some of the Allies, who made their Advantage of the War; and who knew they were to be Gainers at the Expence of the Confederates. The Ministry having faithfully endeavoured to bring this to pass, according to Her Majesties Command, have thereby effectually incur'd the Hatred of a Party of Men, who however Maltreated by the Heads of the former Ministry, have fallen in with them in a protest open Undertaking to overthrow the Management of the new Ministry; this they have no Way to bring to pass, but by endeavouring to render abortive all Her Majesties Measures for a Peace, believing that if they can continue the War, they are in a probable Way to Embaras the Queen, and bring Her Majesty to a Necessity to change Hands again; tho' if they should carry that Point, they have no extraordinary View of Her Majesties falling into the same Hands again, which is what they aim at: For the carrying on this Design, the Way seem'd clear enough, the Emperor, whose unbounded Ambition for the Possession of the *Spanish Monarchy* was well enough known, they were sure would oppose a Peace on any Terms whatsoever, short of the putting the whole *Monarchy of Spain* into his Hands, & therefore they were sure of him upon any Terms. The *Dutch*, who stood wavering, but more inclined to the old Measures, they were in Hopes, by good Management might be brought to push on the War; and these People, possessing both with a Beliet of the general Aversion of the *British Nation* to the Peace and of the Certainty of their embarrassing Affairs so at Home, that it should be impossible for the Ministry to support their Measures, These Things having with too much Success been insinuated Abroad, and join'd with the Inclinations of the *Dutch*, and the pressing Sollicitations of the Imperial Councils, prevailed with the *Dutch* to fall into their Measures; pursuant to which they first break up the Conferences at *Utrecht* on a frivolous

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Nicety, (viz.) whether they should treat by Conference, and Word of Mouth, or by delivering in Answers in Writing; a Scruple which had been better express by, Whether they should proceed, forthwith to a Peace, or delay it, and let the War go on ; and then, upon the French proposing a Cessation of Arms, and giving *Durkirk* for a Security of his sincere Intention to perform the rest of his Proposals, the *Dutch* and the *Imperialists* positively rejected it, and resolved to push on the War ; let any Impartial Observer of these Things judge, whether when a Faction at Home is arrived to such a Magnitude, and is capable of engaging in private Alliance, after such a Manner, and with such an Effect. whether the Sovereign ought not to think it full Time to take effectual Measures to prevent the Mischiefs of such a Management, that they may not come into a Condition to receive Laws from the Subjects, and by their Hands to receive Laws also from the *Dutch*.

It is too apparent to admit of any Doubt, that the Measures now taken by the Confederates, As they have been much the Concert, and thereby the Act and Deed of the said Party here, so they are the great Foundation of their Hopes; as their Expectations are more or less sunk or elevated, as the Affairs of the said Confederacy rise and fall in the Field, and as the View of the Peace either goes backward or forward, or as the Resolutions of the *Dutch* to carry on the War ebb or flow ; from all which it is apparent. that the Success they promise themselves against the new Ministry, is founded in their Confederacies and Alliances Abroad; and that if their said Allies proceed against *France* with any Measure of Success, the said Party hope from thence to have Aid and Assistance to enable them to act at Home as they may see Occasion, No Man who knows any Thing of the joint Measures of these People, or has observed the exact Connection between the Motions of the foreign Troops

Troops and the common Topicks of the said Party here, can doubt of the Truth of this Assertion, or contend against this Foundation, that the Successes of the Confederates against *France* is the Hope of our Party-People here against the new Ministry; and that if the War goes on Abroad, they make no Doubt to overthrow all the new Scheme of Management here, and make such a Turd as they in their largest Wishes can desire. If this be no longer doubted, as it is evident it is not, in that the People themselves confess it in their Freedoms, can it then be longer denied, but the Queen's Majesty is obliged, and under an absolute Necessity, to break all these Councils, both at Home and Abroad, and effectually to prevent the Emperor and the *Dutch* pushing on this War to the End they aim at, cost what it will? It is observable here, that these Things enable us to account ; for the otherwise unaccountable Rashness of the *Dutch*, in venturing to carry on a War with the King of *France* without an Ally, which they formerly acknowledged to be the Principal Support of the War, and in Conjunction with an Ally, who they have had good Experience has been always uncapable to stand by and assist in the said War, in such a Manner as their Necessitys have oftentimes required ; it cannot be rational to conjecture that the *Dutch*, who are allowed to be as penetrating, as wary, and as cautious, as any of the Powers of *Europe*, and as true in their Actings to their own Interest, should take the Weight of such a War so entirely upon themselves, and should Risque their All upon the Success of it in such a Manner, if they had not more than common Assurances from *England*, that the carrying on the War would of Course restore the Interest of their Friends, as they call themselves, into the Management of the *British* Court, and by the Consequence of that Turn, bring the whole *British* Power into the War a second Time, with full Allowance and

and Satisfaction for the Time which they have been withdrawn by the present Management: The Assurances with which the several Allies have been made to believe these Things, have been made with too much Success improved by the Ministers of a certain Potentate, that the States have been brought in to espouse the Interest of the Emperor to a Degree beyond the Rules of Decency and Friendship, Honour and good Neighbourhood, to the Queen of *Great-Britain*, as may appear hereafter. It would be too long for this small Compass to contain the Particulars of the Conduct of our ancient Allies in their Treatment of the Queen, and Her Ministry, especially as to their Memorials and Representations to Her *Britanick* Majesty, which they always took Care to manage so, as that the Faction here had a View of them before the Queen; and in order to make their Party Cause the more popular, always printed them, and dispers'd them over the whole Nation; so that tho' those Papers bore the Title of a Letter to Her Majesty, or a Memorial to Her Majesty, they were in Effect and ought to have been so called, a Letter from the States-General to the People, a Memorial to the People of *Britain*, or, as Her Majesty in Her Answer to the States-General took Notice, they were rather an Appeal to the People, than a Letter written to the Sovereign; it is purposely omitted here taking any Notice of the several kinds of Treatment Her Majesty found at the *Hague*, and at *Utrecht*, in the Person of Her Ambassadors, and with what Temper Her several Proposals were receiv'd at those Places, as well by the *Dutch*, but especially the Imperial Ministers and Generals; all which, joined to the Insolence of some of Her Majesties own Subjects at Home, whose factious Spirits were puff'd up with the Success of their Intrigues Abroad, in having brought the *Dutch* and the Emperor into the War, and by Consequence into espousing

pousing their Party and Designs ; these Things, I say, make it evident, that Her Majesty is under an indispensable Necessity for the Preservation of Herself, and Her Administration at Home, by all lawful Means possible to interpose in the Affairs of the War, and reduce the Confederates to a Temper of Reason, that the Peace of *Europe* may no more be thus precarious and uncertain; if the Warmth of some People, as well Abroad, as here at Home, shall prevail to oppose this just and Necessary Design of her Majesty for the Peace of Christendom, and Her Majesty shall be obliged to make Use of Her Power to do that which She had much rather see quietly and peaceably yielded to on every Hand ; all the World will acquit Her Majesty of the Consequences, as being under an absolute Necessity, as aforesaid, as well for Her own Safety, as the Preservation of Her own Kingdoms, and the general Repose of *Europe*, to take such Measures ; and if the *Dutch* feel the Effects of their Obsturacy, they ought to blame themselves for giving Ear to a Faction, and carrying a private Confidence in a Clandestine Manner with the Subjects of a Prince, who was all that while endeavouring to cultivate the sincere Amity, so long establish'd, between the two Nations, and was in all Her Negotiations making equal Provision for their Safety, as for Her own.

The Sum of this Matter is contained in these few Words, viz. That if the Confederates push on a War against *France*, in Contempt of Her Majesties just Representations, and of all Her Royal Endeavours for Peace, Her Majesty will be justly obliged, and under an absolute Necessity, to make Use of Her Power to prevent it, as well for preserving the Peace of *Europe*, and the Balance of Power, on which that Peace depends, as for preventing the secret Designs of a Party of Her own Subjects, whose Measures entirely depend on the Assistance they expect from the said War to be carried on,

on, and by which they hope to involve Her Majesties Kingdoms in new Troubles. It is with great Satisfaction that all the Friends of Her Majesties Interest appeal to the very Confederates themselves, and to their own constant Custom, as well as to the Usage of all Christian Nations, whether these Things are not justifiable by the Practice of all Ages, and as before has been noticed by the *Dutch* themselves, in the Affair of the Neutrality of the *North*, as above-said.

But it is hoped still that the States-General will mutually weigh these Things before it be too late ; and that when they come to look into their own Affairs, they will not think to relinquish the Friendship of Her Majesty, and the Advantages of a continued Alliance, which has on so many Occasions been of Use to their State, to push forward a War, in which they must necessarily bring on themselves the whole Forces of Her Majesties Kingdoms ; it is hoped they will not suffer themselves to be deceived by the *Gaconads* of a Faction among Her Majesties Subjects, who are so unlikely to perform what they pretend to, in order to support their Proposals for carrying on the War, that they could not maintain their Ground, either in the Court, or in the Parliament of Her Majesty, but are become as weak as they are unquiet, have rendered themselves odious to the Nation for their Conduct when in Place, and contemptible now they are out. If the Knowledge of all this will not prevail, the States-General must not blame Her *Britannick* Majesty if She makes Use of that Power which God has put into Her Hands, to secure as well the Tranquillity of Her own People at Home, as the general Peace Abroad, in both which it is not doubted but whoever shall oppose Her Majesty, shall do it to their own Detriment and Dishonour.

POSTSCRIPT.

Since the Writing the above Sheets, Advice has arrived of the Defeat of the Body of an Army, separate from the Great Army under Prince Eugene of Savoy, and commanded by the Earl of Albemarle, at *Denain*, on the *Scheld*: it seems it was necessary for this Body of Troops to be posted in that Place, to secure to the Grand Army their Supply of Forrage and Provisions, they being advanced so far into the Enemies Countrey as *Landrecy*, having the French Army on their Right, and the strong Towns of *Maubeuge*, *Valenciennes* and *Conde*, in the Possession of the French on their Left. But the French having surprized this Body of Troops, and entirely defeated them, it will appear more difficult for Prince Eugene to maintain himself in his present Situation, and secure his Convoys. This, it is hoped, may alarm the Dutch so far, as to put them upon considering farther, that as if they carry the War on with the Ends and Designs aforeside, without Her Majesties Consent, and against Her resolved Measures, they will, in case of Success on their Side, oblige

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Her Majesty to act against them'; so if failing of that Success, they should prove so unhappy as to want Her Majesties Assistance for Defence of their own Countrey, they would have small Reason, Her Majesties Goodness alone excepted, to expect Help from a Princess who they had treated in such a Manner as they have done Her Majesty: It is not doubted but Her Majesty, whose only Aim is the Peace and Tranquillity of the Christian World, would, Godlike regard at such a Time rather their Exigencies, than the Provocation given Her to abandon them ; but it is what they ought not to presume upon, and what no Wise State would, in common Prudence, run the Hazard of.

F I N I S